

PFAS Committee Process and Initial Milestones:

About the PFAS Coordinating Committee: The committee provides a cross-agency perspective. The goal is to harmonize, rather than replace, actions and decisions made by EPA offices, regions, and programs. The committee promotes open and transparent discussions across EPA and with states and external stakeholders.

- The PFAS Coordinating Committee has operated on an ad hoc basis to date. We propose that the EPA Office of the Science Advisor (OSA) chair the coordinating committee moving forward.
- Members include senior staff from OLEM, OCSP, ORD, Region(s), OW, and representatives from the Administrator's office as decided upon by the Administrator (e.g., OP, OPA)
- The committee will hold monthly meetings to review progress on PFAS-related activities and products
- The committee will meet as needed to discuss emerging or emergency cross-agency issues
- Bimonthly meetings to review progress, and ad hoc meetings on emerging issues, will be provided to the Administrator and or Deputy Administrator or their designees

Initial Milestones

- Recommend priorities to the Administrator for agency-wide activities, products, and informing data gaps
- Identify key technical milestones and deadlines for presentation to the Administrator
- Establish and track progress using agreed upon milestones
- Propose alignment of resources to complete priorities on time

Internal EPA Coordination

- Provide and coordinate internal EPA review and approval of PFAS-related technical products
- Assure appropriate peer-review, public comment, and response to comment is conducted by agency programs, offices, and regions as appropriate
- Harmonize science-based policies across the Agency
- Identify and approve information disseminated on EPA's PFAS website in coordination with OPA
- Review and approve EPA communications on PFAS in coordination with OPA to share with states and other public partners

External coordination (Federal partners, states, tribes, communities, industry, and the public).

- Establish a centralized point-of-contact for states, tribes, communities, and federal agencies
- Identify and quickly respond to partner needs
- Receive, triage, and monitor partner requests

Appendix

Current Status and Issues:

- Most people have been exposed to PFAS chemicals because they have been used in many consumer products and because they do not break down in the environment. Human exposure to PFAS occurs through multiple ingestion pathways including contaminated food, house dust, and drinking water.
- Certain PFAS chemicals, including PFOA and PFOS, are no longer manufactured in the U.S. as a result of voluntary phase-outs and EPA's 2010/2015 PFOA Stewardship Program, but they are still produced around the world and continue to be imported in consumer goods.
- Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have found PFOA and PFOS in the blood of nearly all the people they tested (98% of 2,094 nationwide participants from 2011 to 2012).
- These studies have shown that the levels of PFOA and PFOS in blood have been decreasing since companies stopped producing these chemicals, but information on concentrations of other PFAS chemicals in humans, which are being used as alternatives, is lacking.
- EPA Offices and Regions (and other federal agencies) are learning more about the toxicity of PFAS chemicals as well as developing and validating necessary analytical methods to better understand PFAS exposures in communities.
- In 2016, EPA established non-regulatory health advisories for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) combined. The health advisories identified the concentration of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water at or below which adverse health effects are not anticipated to occur for short-term and lifetime exposures.
- Between 2013 and 2015, four percent of community water systems (198 out of 4,920) measured one or more of the six PFAS they were required to monitor for under EPA's third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (1.3% of systems found PFOA and PFOS at levels exceeding the 70 ppt Health Advisory).
- Other PFAS chemicals, which are extremely persistent in the environment, generally lack quantitative toxicity information and validated analytical methods. The lack of information and methods makes it difficult for EPA Offices and Regions to make evidence-based decisions regarding potential human health risks from ongoing or future exposures.
- There are geographical hotspots where exposures are higher than in the general population (e.g. Twin Cities Metro Area, MN; Parkersburg, WV/Mid-Ohio Valley; Decatur, AL; Hoosick Falls, NY; North Bennington, VT; Merrimac, NH).
- There is limited commercial and/or government laboratory capacity to analyze samples, especially with the growing number of investigations nationwide.
- There is concern about the effects of PFAS on public health based on human and animal studies on PFOA and PFOS, including increased cholesterol levels, low infant birth weights, effects on the immune system, thyroid hormone disruption, and an increased risk for kidney and testicular cancer. There is also concern for potential reproductive and life stage health risks for sensitive populations, including pregnant mothers and breast-fed infants, from short-term exposures.
- EPA remains concerned about the ongoing uses of PFOA and related chemicals that are still available in existing stocks or are being newly introduced by companies not participating in the PFOA Stewardship Program.